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Biden sounds newly strong alarm: Trumpism menaces democracy

By ZEKE MILLER and JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — President Joe Biden charged in a prime-time address that the "extreme ideology" of Donald Trump and his adherents "threatens the very foundation of our republic," as he summoned Americans of all stripes to help counter what he sketched as dark forces within the Republican Party trying to subvert democracy. In his speech Thursday night at Philadelphia's Independence Hall, Biden unleashed the trappings of the presidency in an unusually strong and sweeping indictment of Trump and what he said has become the dominant strain of the opposition party. His broadside came barely two months before Americans head to the polls in bitterly contested midterm elections that Biden calls a crossroads for the nation.

"Too much of what's happening in our country today is not normal," he said before an audience of hundreds, raising his voice over pro-Trump hecklers outside the building where the nation's founding was debated. He said he wasn't condemning the 74 million people who voted for Trump in 2020 but added, "There's no question that the Republican Party today is dominated by Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans," using the acronym for Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan.



President Joe Biden arrives with first lady Jill Biden to speak outside Independence Hall, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

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Biden sounds newly strong alarm: Trumpism menaces democracy



President Joe Biden speaks outside Independence Hall, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022, in Philadelphia. **Associated Press**

Continued from Front

The explicit effort by Biden to marginalize Trump and his followers marks a sharp recent turn for the president, who preached his desire to bring about national unity in his inaugural address.

Asked on Friday if he considered all Trump supporters a threat to the country, Biden said, "I don't consider any Trump supporter a threat to the country."

He added: "I do think anyone who calls for the use of violence, fails to condemn violence when it's used, refuses to acknowledge when an election has been won, insists on changing the way in which the rules to count votes, that is a threat to democracy."

He said that when people voted for Trump, "they weren't voting for attacking the Capitol. They weren't voting for overruling the election. They were voting for a philosophy he put forward." Biden, who largely avoided even referring to "the former guy" by name during his first year in office, has grown increasingly vocal in calling out Trump personally. Now, emboldened

by his party's summertime legislative wins and wary of Trump's return to the headlines, he has sharpened his attacks, last week likening the "MAGA philosophy" to "semi-fascism."

Wading into risky political terrain, Biden strained to balance his criticism with an appeal to more traditional Republicans to make their voices heard. Meanwhile, GOP leaders swiftly accused him of only furthering political divisions.

Delivering a preemptive rebuttal from Scranton, Pennsylvania, where Biden was born, House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said it is the Democratic president, not Republicans, trying to divide Americans.

"In the past two years, Joe Biden has launched an assault on the soul of America, on its people, on its laws, on its most sacred values," McCarthy said. "He has launched an assault on our democracy. His policies have severely wounded America's soul, diminished America's spirit and betrayed America's trust."

Asked about McCarthy's criticism, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said earlier Thursday

that "we understand we hit a nerve" with the GOP leader, and quoted the Republican's prior statements saying Trump bore responsibility for the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. Trump plans a rally this weekend in the Scranton area.

White House officials said the sharp tenor of Biden's remarks reflected his mounting concern about Trump allies' ideological proposals and relentless denial of the nation's 2020 election results.

"Equality and democracy are under assault" in the U.S., Biden charged, casting Trump and his backers in the GOP as a menace to the nation's system of government, its standing abroad and its citizens' way of life.

Trump and the MAGA Republicans "promote authoritarian leaders and they fan the flames of political violence," he said. They "are determined to take this country backwards."

"Backwards to an America where there is no right to choose, no right to privacy, no right to contraception, no right to marry who you love," he said, referencing

the social issues that Democrats have looked to place front-and-center for voters this fall.

Biden's appearance was promoted as an official, taxpayer-funded event, a mark of how the president views defeating the Trump agenda as a policy aim as much as a political one. Red and blue lights illuminated the brick of Independence Hall, as the Marine Band played "Hail to the Chief" and a pair of Marine sentries stood at parade rest in the backdrop. Still, the major broadcast television networks did not carry the address live.

The president appealed for citizens to "vote, vote, vote" to protect their democracy. "For a long time, we've reassured ourselves that American democracy is guaranteed. But it is not." Biden harked back to the 2017 white supremacist protest in Charlottesville, Virginia, which he said brought him out of political retirement to challenge Trump. Biden argued that the country faces a similar crossroads in the coming months, and he cast defending the "soul of the nation" as "the work of my presidency — a mission I believe in with my whole soul."

But Iowa GOP chair Jeff Kaufman said in a statement that Biden was using the tactics of an authoritarian regime, "trying to turn his political opponents into an enemy of the state."

Larry Diamond, an expert on democracy and senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, said calling Trump out for attacks on democracy "can be manipulated or framed as being partisan. And if you don't call it out, you are shrinking from an important challenge in the defense of democracy."

The White House has tried to keep Biden removed from the legal and political maelstrom surrounding the Department of Justice's discovery of classified documents in Trump's Florida home. Still, Biden has pointed to some Republicans' quick condemnation of

federal law enforcement, to argue "you can't be pro-insurrectionist and pro-American."

His trip to Philadelphia was just one of his three to the state within a week, a sign of Pennsylvania's importance in the midterms, with competitive Senate and governor's races. However, neither Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, the Democrats' Senate nominee, nor Attorney General Josh Shapiro, their pick for governor, attended Thursday night.

The White House intended the speech to unite familiar themes: holding out bipartisan legislative wins on guns and infrastructure as evidence that democracies "can deliver," pushing back on GOP policies on guns and abortion that Biden says are out of step with most people's views.

The challenges have only increased since the tumult surrounding the 2020 election and the Capitol attack. Lies surrounding that presidential race have triggered harassment and death threats against state and local election officials and new restrictions on mail voting in Republican-dominated states. County election officials have faced pressure to ban the use of voting equipment, efforts generated by conspiracy theories that voting machines were somehow manipulated to steal the election.

Candidates who dispute Trump's loss have been inspired to run for state and local election posts, promising to restore integrity to a system that has been undermined by false claims.

There is no evidence of any widespread fraud or manipulation of voting machines. Judges, including ones appointed by Trump, dismissed dozens of lawsuits filed after the election, and Trump's own attorney general called the claims bogus. Yet Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research polling has shown about two-thirds of Republicans say they do not think Biden was legitimately elected president. □



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'Devastating': Mass shootings obscure daily U.S. gun toll

By GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)

— Cameron Taylor was watching an illegal street race that had attracted hundreds to an intersection in Portland, Oregon, but decided to leave as the crowd got increasingly unruly. Moments later, gunfire erupted and Taylor was hit by a stray bullet as he and a friend headed to their car.

Police, who were overwhelmed with 911 calls about other shootings, couldn't control multiple street takeovers in the city that night and had trouble finding the victims of three shootings that occurred during the chaos.

"His friend who was with him put him in the car and drove him out to get him to the hospital, but he was not able to make it and that friend called his parents" to say Taylor was dead, family friend Erin Russell told The Associated Press.

Taylor, 20, died Sunday the same day that four high-profile, public shooting rampages in Bend, Oregon, Phoenix, Detroit and Houston drew national headlines. His slaying went largely unnoticed amid the daily toll of gun violence that has come to define Portland and a number of other American cities since the pandemic.

Homicide rates appear to be dropping in some major U.S. cities, such as New York and Chicago, but in others killings are on the rise, particularly from guns. In Portland, the homicide rate surged 207% since



A police officer carries traffic barricades across 27th Avenue near Dear Valley Road, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2022, in Phoenix, as a damaged police vehicle is transported out of the area after a shooting occurred the night before injuring two Phoenix police officers.

Associated Press

2019 and there have been more than 800 shootings so far this year. In Phoenix, police Chief Jeri Williams said this week the gun violence was the worst she'd seen in 33 years on the job.

"How many more officers have to be shot? How many more community members have to be killed before those in our community take a stand? This is not only a Phoenix police issue, this is a community issue," she said after a weekend that tallied 17 shootings and 11 homicides citywide. Now, police are on edge heading into Labor Day weekend, with its traditional end-of-summer festivities, and some are adding extra patrols as they brace for more potential violence.

In Portland, police busy with three killings and nine non-

fatal shootings in 48 hours couldn't control three illegal street races last weekend that attracted hundreds and shut down major intersections for hours. In Houston, the day after a gunman shot five neighbors, killing three, another man shot two sisters before killing himself.

In the past two weeks, authorities in Phoenix have confiscated 711 guns and made 525 gun-related arrests as part of a targeted crackdown. Nearly 90% of homicides there this year were by gun, police said. In Detroit, where a man is accused of shooting three people at random on city streets last weekend, authorities are also cracking down on gun violence in high-crime neighborhoods through Labor Day.

"Let's stop talking about our inability to respond to crime in the community. Let's stop advertising to criminals that they're going to get away with it," Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler said, using an expletive at a City Council meeting this week after police Chief Chuck Lovell once more asked for more officers.

"I think we should stop using the messaging at every turn, that the reason we can't help our citizens with basic criminal justice issues is because we don't have the personnel," Wheeler said. "We've got to figure out better ways to address this crisis."

Last weekend's rampages — which included a heavily armed assailant who stormed a central Oregon supermarket, random

shootings on Detroit streets and a Phoenix man who opened fire while wearing body armor — were shocking and scary, but they aren't representative of the broader toll gun violence is taking on American society, experts said.

Victims killed in mass shootings make up about 1% of all those killed in gun homicides nationwide, despite headlines that instill fear in many Americans, said James Fox, a professor at Northeastern University who has created a database of mass killings stretching back to 2006 with The Associated Press and USA Today.

All four shootings last weekend didn't even meet the database's definition of a mass killing — four or more people, excluding the assailant, killed in a 24-hour period — but they nonetheless sowed fear because of the random nature of the violence, he added.

"Those don't tend to make news. They don't tend to scare people because people say, 'Well, that's not my family,'" Fox said. "We have as many as 20,000 gun homicides a year, and most of those are one victim. Sometimes two, sometimes three, (but) rarely four or more."

The pandemic and the social unrest it caused has also played a role. Eight million Americans became first-time gun owners between 2019 and 2021, said Jeffrey Butts, director of the research and evaluation center for the John Jay College of Criminal Justice at City University of New York. □

Tribe: Arizona built border barrier against its wishes

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Cocopah Indian Tribe said Friday that the state of Arizona acted against its wishes by stacking shipping containers on its land to prevent illegal border crossings.

The tribe determined that the state put 42 double-stacked containers on its land near Yuma, said Michael Fila from its office of emergency management. The tribe wrote state officials Tuesday to inform them of their findings and concerns. Fila said the containers block half of a two-lane road, closing a "vital evacuation route."

The containers pose other safety concerns, including if the containers fall, Fila wrote. Two containers toppled during construction last month for reasons that are unclear.

"The integrity of the road itself has subsequently been damaged by the heavy machinery that was used in placing the shipping containers" and created the danger for first responders to get stuck, Fila said in an email shared with The Associated Press.

The tribe told state officials at a meeting Aug. 17 that it didn't want the barriers



Border Patrol agents patrol along a line of shipping containers stacked near the border on Aug. 23, 2022, near Yuma, Ariz.

ers and is waiting on a response to its findings, said Jonathan Athens, a Cocopah spokesman.

"We had made it clear before that we did not want the containers on our land," he said.

The tribe's findings are a potential setback to Gov. Doug Ducey, who said last week that the barriers were "a major step forward to secure our border."

Despite his claims, the barriers have so far failed to make a meaningful dent

in illegal crossings in an area where hundreds have been entering the country daily.

Ducey spokesman C.J. Kar-margin said Friday that he was aware of the tribe's letter but had no immediate comment.

The state installed 130 double-stacked containers in the Yuma area last month in an effort to close gaps in the imposing wall built during Donald Trump's presidency that were incomplete when he left of-

fice last year. The Biden administration said in July that it would plug gaps but Ducey said he couldn't wait and hired AshBritt Inc. to install shipping containers the length of 13 football fields in five areas.

The containers that the tribe says were installed on tribal lands extend into the desert, ending abruptly in an area where migrants can easily walk around it.

The area includes rights of way for people outside the tribe to travel, which may

have created confusion, said Fila. In any case, the tribe said state officials did not consult them before building.

The episode is a reminder of obstacles that the government faces with border barriers: difficulty building on tribal land, most notably in the Tohono O'odham Nation in Arizona, and opposition from landowners, especially in Texas, where, unlike other border states, much property is privately owned. Migrants go around the walls.

About half of encounters with migrants crossing the border illegally in the Border Patrol's Tucson, Arizona, sector are in the Tohono O'odham Nation, up from 20% to 30% before walls were built just outside of the tribe's land, said John Modlin, the sector chief.

The Cocopah expressed strong opposition to a wall in a letter to U.S. officials in May 2020, saying the barrier would cut access to the river and tribal members in Mexico.

The tribe recently released a video showing its interim police chief, Arlene Martinez, outlining other cooperative measures with the Border Patrol, such as surveillance cameras and ground sensors. □

Associated Press



This undated photograph provided by Dianna Shaw shows U.S. military veteran Alexander Druke of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and his mother, Lois "Bunny" Druke.

Associated Press

Missing military vets' families meet with Ukraine officials

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — The families of two military veterans from Alabama who are missing in Ukraine this week met virtually with federal government officials and Ukraine's ambassador, Oksana Markarova, and participated in two Ukrainian-American events to observe that country's Independence Day.

Alex Druke, 39, and Andy Huynh, 27, went missing after their unit came under heavy fire in the Kharkiv region of northeastern Ukraine near the Russian border June 9.

"It was wonderful to hear first-hand from the Ambassador that Alex and Andy are a priority along with

all their prisoners of war," Druke's mother, Bunny Druke, said after Thursday's conversation with Markarova and six members of the U.S. Department of State. "She also agreed to help us get a letter to President (Volodymyr) Zelensky thanking him for calling our men heroes and asking him not to forget them." Huynh's fiancée, Joy Black, said she was glad to be able to tell Markarova why he wanted to help Ukraine, according to a statement from the families.

"It just laid on Andy's heart to see teenage boys in Ukraine joining the Army to try to protect their homes," she said. "Andy felt called

to help, and Alex did too, and I could tell that touched her."

Druke and Huynh are believed to have been taken into the Donetsk region. Russia and the so-called Donetsk People's Republic currently control the majority of the region. The U.S. does not recognize the sovereignty of the DPR and has no diplomatic relations with them, making it necessary for Ukraine to lead efforts to get the men released.

Neither Russia nor the DPR has confirmed any information about the missing men. Druke, an Army veteran, served two tours in Iraq while Huynh served four years in the U.S. Marines. □

Iran briefly seizes 2 U.S. sea drones in Red Sea amid tensions

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's navy seized two American sea drones in the Red Sea before letting them go Friday as U.S. warships neared, officials said, in the latest maritime incident involving the Navy's new drone fleet in the Mideast.

Iranian state television aired footage it said came from the deck of the Iranian navy's Jamaran destroyer, where lifejacket-wearing sailors examined two Saildrone Explorers. They tossed one overboard as another warship could be seen in the distance.

State TV said the Iranian navy found "several unmanned spying vessels abandoned in the international maritime routes" on Thursday.

"After two warnings to an American destroyer to prevent possible incidents, Jamaran seized the two vessels," state TV said. "After securing the international shipping waterway, the Naval Squadron No. 84 released the vessels in a safe area."

It added: "The U.S. Navy was warned to avoid repeating similar incidents in future." A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the



In this frame grab from Iranian state television, Iranian navy sailors throw an American sea drone overboard in the Red Sea on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022.

incident before the military offered a formal statement, identified the seized drones as Saildrone Explorers. Those drones are commercially available and used by a variety of clients, including scientists, to monitor open waters.

Two American destroyers in the Red Sea, as well as Navy helicopters, responded to the incident, the official said. They called the Iranian destroyer over the radio and followed the vessel until it released the drones Friday morning, the official said.

Initially, the Iranian sailors tried to cover the drones with tarps and deny they

had them, the official said, adding that the drones are now in U.S. custody.

This marks the second such incident in recent days as negotiations over Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers hang in the balance.

The earlier incident involved Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, not its regular navy, and occurred in the Persian Gulf. The Guard towed a Saildrone Explorer before releasing it as an American warship trailed it. Iran had criticized the U.S. Navy for releasing a "Hollywood" video of the incident, only to do the same Friday in

the Red Sea incident.

The 5th Fleet launched its unmanned Task Force 59 last year. Drones used by the Navy include ultra-endurance aerial surveillance drones, surface ships like the Sea Hawk and the Sea Hunter and smaller underwater drones that resemble torpedoes.

The 5th Fleet's area of responsibility includes the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil passes. It also stretches as far as the Red Sea reaches near the Suez Canal, the waterway in Egypt leading to the Mediterranean, and the Bab el-

Mandeb Strait off Yemen. The region has seen a series of maritime attacks in recent years.

Off Yemen in the Red Sea, bomb-laden drone boats and mines set adrift by Yemen's Houthi rebels have damaged vessels amid that country's yearslong war. Near the United Arab Emirates and the Strait of Hormuz, oil tankers have been seized by Iranian forces. Others have been attacked in incidents the Navy blames on Iran.

Those attacks came about a year after then-President Donald Trump's 2018 decision to unilaterally withdraw from Iran's nuclear deal, in which sanctions on Tehran were lifted in exchange for it drastically limiting its enrichment of uranium.

Negotiations to revive the accord now hang in the balance. The U.S. cast doubt Friday on Iran's latest written response over the talks.

Iran now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels as officials openly suggest Tehran could build a nuclear bomb if it wishes to. Iran has maintained its program is peaceful, though Western nations and international inspectors say Tehran had a military nuclear program up until 2003. □

Associated Press

Rights body urges Dutch to improve migrants reception

BRUSSELS (AP) — The Dutch government should drastically improve reception conditions for asylum seekers, Europe's top human rights body has urged, after hundreds of people were left stranded in recent weeks outside the main Dutch registration center. The Council of Europe's human rights commissioner, Dunja Mijatovic, said in a letter to the Dutch Minister for Migration published Friday that conditions at the Ter Apel center have been worsening, "endangering the right to health of the people involved." Mijatovic said conditions there don't meet the minimum stan-

dards set by the European Convention on Human Rights and urged the government to ensure the most vulnerable people swiftly receive proper accommodation.

Last week, hundreds of migrants were forced to sleep outdoors in squalid conditions just outside Ter Apel because the asylum center there is too full to host them. The situation is so grim that Doctors Without Borders sent a team there last week, the first time the agency has launched a mission in the Netherlands. Meanwhile, a Dutch prosecutor said Friday that no evidence of a crime was

found in the Aug. 24 death of a 3-month-old baby at the Ter Apel center. A forensic investigation has not yet established the infant's cause of death, prosecutors said.

Part of the problem is that people who have been granted refugee status remain in asylum-seeker centers because they have no place to move to amid a nationwide housing crisis.

Apart from the situation at Ter Apel, Mijatovic noted that many people, including some of the most vulnerable, have been staying for extended periods in emergency centers not suited for long stays. She



Hundreds of migrants who seek shelter prepare to spend the night outside an overcrowded asylum seekers center in Ter Apel, northern Netherlands, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

said the current crisis "warrants a reconsideration of some more general and longer term aspects of the system for asylum reception in the Netherlands." Noting the challenge the

Netherlands faces hosting people fleeing Ukraine, Mijatovic however said she was concerned by the double standards applied in the treatments of asylum applicants. □

N. Korea calls U.N. monitor on its rights issue 'puppet' of U.S.

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM** and
KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea called the U.N.'s top expert on the country's human rights "a puppet" of the United States, warning Friday that it won't tolerate an American-led plot to use the rights issue to overthrow its political system.

North Korea's government is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its rights record, viewing it as an attempt to slander and rattle its authoritarian rule of its 26 million people, most of whom have little access to foreign news.

Its comments come as Elizabeth Salmón, the U.N. special rapporteur on the North's human rights, is making her first visit to South Korea this week to meet officials, activists and North Korean defectors since her appointment last month.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry accused Salmón of displaying "ignorance and biased vision" on the North. It also accused Washington of being behind Salmón's mandate as part of an anti-North Korea scheme.

"The 'human rights' racket of the U.S. and other hos-



Elizabeth Salmon, left, the U.N. special rapporteur for North Korea's human rights, shakes hands with South Korean Unification Minister Kwon Youngse during their meeting at the Government Complex in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, Sept. 2, 2022.

Associated Press

tile forces ... is nothing but the most politicized hostile means for tarnishing the dignified image of (North Korea)," it said in a statement. "(North Korea) will never pardon the U.S. and its vassal forces' 'human rights' racket ... which is aimed at overthrowing its social system."

It repeated its earlier position that it will never recognize or deal with any

U.N. special rapporteur on its human rights. Salmón's predecessors were denied access to North Korea, which observers say has made it difficult for them to gather independent and credible information on rights abuses. During a news conference in Seoul on Friday, Salmón said she was "fully aware that the lack of cooperation in that country is a challenge, no

doubts about it." "But at the same time, you know, I have been reading a lot, studying a lot during this time and there has been 18 years of work. I am new but the mandate is not new," she said.

Salmón said she will keep trying to engage with North Korea and expressed worries about its economic, food and other hardships amid the COVID-19 pan-

demic. "We should not give up on engagement with (North Korea) because what is at stake are the lives of the North Korean people and their human rights," she said. In a new report circulated Thursday, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said North Korea has increased the repression of the rights and freedoms of its people and the U.N. Security Council should consider referring it to the International Criminal Court for possible crimes against humanity.

Salmón said her first report on North Korea's rights issue will be presented to the U.N. General Assembly in late October.

North Korea remains under multiple rounds of U.N. sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs. During a meeting in Hawaii on Thursday, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and his South Korean and Japanese counterparts condemned North Korea's continued development of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while the U.S. reaffirmed its "ironclad alliance commitments" to its two key Asian allies, according to a U.S. statement. □



Afghan people gather near the site of an explosion in Herat province, Afghanistan, Friday, Sept 2, 2022.

Associated Press

HERAT, Afghanistan (AP) —

An explosion tore through a crowded mosque in western Afghanistan on Friday, killing at least 18 people, including a prominent cleric close to the Taliban, Taliban officials and a local medic said. At least 23 people were hurt.

The explosion in the city of Herat left the courtyard of the Guzargah Mosque littered with bodies, the ground stained with blood, video from the scene showed. Men shouted, "God is great," in shock and horror.

The bomb went off during

Afghan mosque blast kills 18, including pro-Taliban cleric

Friday noon prayers, when mosques are full of worshippers.

Among the dead was Mujib-ul Rahman Ansari, a prominent cleric who was known across Afghanistan for his criticism of the country's Western-backed governments over the past two decades. Ansari was seen as close to the Taliban, who seized control over Afghanistan a year ago as foreign forces withdrew.

His death was confirmed by the chief Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid. Just before the bombing, Ansari had been meeting in another part of the city with the Taliban government's deputy prime minister, Mullah Abdul Ghani

Baradar, who was on a visit to Herat. Ansari had rushed from the meeting to the mosque to get to the noon prayers, an aide to Baradar said in a tweet mourning the cleric.

Ansari's brother, Habib ul Rahman, was also among those killed, according to Islam Jar, the governor of Herat province. Jar said another 23 people were wounded in the attack, updating an earlier toll.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Friday's blast.

Last month, a bombing at a mosque in the capital Kabul targeted and killed a pro-Taliban cleric in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group. IS has waged

a bloody campaign of attacks on Taliban targets and minority groups, particularly Shiites whom the extremist Sunni IS considers heretics. It has frequently hit mosques with suicide attacks during Friday prayers. Herat's Guzargah Mosque, where Ansari has long been the preacher, draws followers of Sunni Islam, the dominant stream in Afghanistan that is also followed by the Taliban.

Ansari was for years a thorn in the side of Afghanistan's pro-Western government. In his sermons at the Guzargah, he urged his many supporters to carry out protests against the governments and preached against women's rights. □

Apparent assassination attempt against VP roils Argentina

By **ALMUDENA CALATRAVA**
and **DANIEL POLITI**
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — As Argentina's powerful Vice President Cristina Fernández stepped from her car outside her apartment building and began shaking hands with a throng of well-wishers, a man came forward with a gun, put it just inches from her face and pulled the trigger with a distinct click. The weapon apparently jammed.

Fernández's security detail seized the gunman and took him away, and the 69-year-old former president of Argentina appeared unhurt. But the apparent assassination attempt against the deeply divisive figure Thursday night shook the country and threatened to further roil its tumultuous political scene.

The gunman was identified as Fernando André Sabag Montiel, a 35-year-old street vendor and Brazilian citizen who has lived in Argentina since 1998 and had no criminal record, authorities said. He was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

Authorities shed no light on a possible motive and were investigating whether he acted alone or was part of a larger plot.

"There is no confirmed hypothesis," said a Security Ministry official who was not



This still image taken from a video provided by Television Publica Argentina shows a man pointing a gun at Argentina's Vice President Cristina Fernandez during an event in front of her home in the Recoleta neighborhood of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022.

authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. "Everything is being investigated."

The country's political leaders quickly condemned the incident, with President Alberto Fernández holding a late-night national broadcast to tell Argentines just how close the vice president came to being killed. The president, who is not related to his vice president, said the man's semi-automatic handgun was loaded with five bullets but "didn't fire even though the trigger was pulled."

Argentina, a country with a history of political violence, seemed to be in a state of

shock Friday morning. The streets of Buenos Aires were quiet after the president declared a national holiday in the wake of what he called "the most serious incident since we recovered democracy" in 1983 after a military dictatorship.

Allies of Fernández, who was president from 2007 to 2015, called for a march in Buenos Aires to express their support and repudiate the incident.

No politician awakens more passion in Argentina than Fernández, who has both fervent supporters and ardent detractors.

The left-of-center leader is on trial on corruption charges involving public

works while she was president. Some of her staunchest supporters had been gathering daily outside her apartment since Aug. 22, when a prosecutor called for a 12-year prison sentence for her and a ban on holding public office ever again. She has vehemently denied all charges and cast herself as a victim of political persecution.

"If you touch Cristina, what chaos we'll make!" supporters had chanted.

In recent days, some of her allies charged that her detractors were trying to spark violence, with Security Minister Aníbal Fernández saying the opposition "is looking for someone to die on

the street."

Following Thursday's incident, some of her supporters pointed the finger at the opposition for what they said was hateful speech that could push people toward violence.

Before the apparent attempt on her life, Fernández had made a habit of leaving her apartment every day around noon, greeting supporters and signing autographs before getting in her vehicle to go to the Senate. She had a similar routine every evening.

Over the weekend, her supporters had clashed with police during an effort by law enforcement to clear the area, and the strong police presence around the apartment was then reduced, though her supporters kept coming.

In Thursday's incident, which was captured on video, those around the vice president looked shocked and confused.

It was not clear whether Fernández understood what had just happened. Video appeared to show her covering her face and ducking. But seen from another angle, it looked as she had dropped something and crouched to pick it up. Even as her security detail went into action, Fernández continued greeting supporters in the upscale Recoleta neighborhood of Argentina's capital. □

Associated Press

Gibraltar confirms leakage of fuel from stranded cargo ship

The Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A small amount of heavy fuel oil has leaked from a bulk carrier ship stranded since colliding Monday with another ship near the Bay of Gibraltar, authorities said Thursday. The Captain of the Gibraltar Port said the leak is "fully under control." Authorities announced one person had been arrested Thursday in connection with the incident but gave no further information. The Port Authority said a

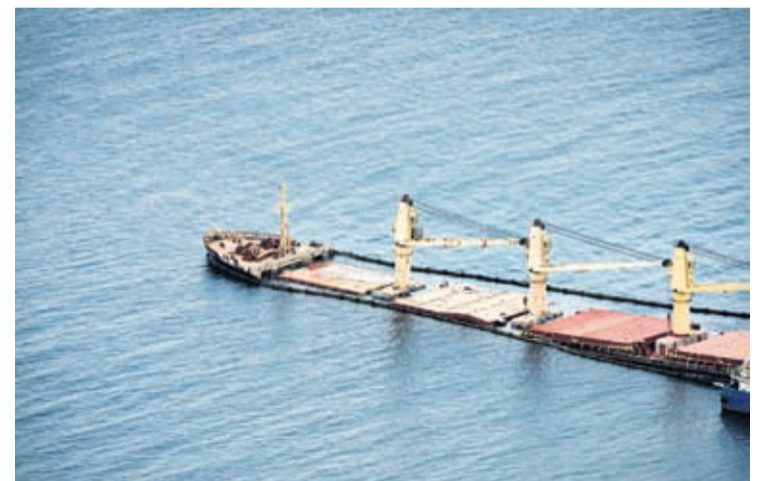
small amount of oil escaped the perimeter of a boom placed to contain any spill. A second barrier was to be deployed to prevent the spill spreading. An aerial photo of the stricken ship showed a small slick on the outside of the boom.

The oil is being collected by two vessels from Gibraltar Port Authority and Spanish Maritime Rescue. The environmental impact of the spill was not immediately clear. Divers sent to the ship have already sealed the

source of the leak — two vents in the fuel tanks.

Fabian Picardo, the head of Gibraltar's government, explained to Spanish public broadcaster TVE that the pumping of the fuel remaining in the tanks will be carried out by the ship's insurer.

The extraction is set to last around 50 hours. The ship has stored 215 tons of heavy fuel oil, 250 tons of diesel and 27 tons of lubricating oil, Spanish news agency EFE reports.



The Tuvalu-registered OS 35 cargo ship that collided with a liquid natural gas carrier in the bay of Gibraltar last Monday, lies on the seabed off Catalan bay to prevent it from sinking in Gibraltar, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022.

Associated Press

The usually busy Gibraltar Port remains closed, while neighboring Algeciras port is fully operational. □

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Start with a breakfast meal at Paseo Herencia offering unique breakfast options such as Drunk's Denial with their Make it Your Own Crêpe Bar offering sweet and savory crêpe flavors and the option to booze it up with their Mimosa crêpe (mandarin soaked in champagne), Pina

Colada (pineapples in coconut rum), Bourbon Apple, Brandy Apricot, Whiskey Pear and more. Location can be found by following the bakery smell upon arrival. Another option is Seabarita offering you delicious breakfast options ranging from Huevos Rancheros to empanadas surrounded by a cozy picnic setting with streetside view. Go Argentinian style at Che Bar and try their delicious omelet with chorizo/ham, mozzarella, onions, peppers, and tomatoes served with skillet potatoes and toast. Looking for something for the whole family? Visit TGI Fridays and choose between waffle, omelets, breakfast sandwiches and tacos starting at \$8. These restaurants are also open for lunch & dinner offering you a variety of cuisine choices. If you're looking for more unique concepts, join us for dinner at Xixon Restaurant greatly known in Miami for their Spanish inspired dishes with top notch flavors and the largest wine variety or visit The Lazy Turtle and try their exotic African dish "Kuvuta Kuku" accompanied by their tasty lazy cocktails. Coming for drinks? Sip and have a good time at the Bulldog Aruba located in the center of the Plaza. Open till late.

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Catch live shows from Monday to Thursday and Sunday at 8pm on the Paseo center stage and the nightly water shows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Looking for some adrenaline? Visit the Airsoft experience located behind The Lazy Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Free Spirit or the Flying mosaic hearts located behind King Churros.

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Honoring of loyal visitors at Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".



The honorees were Daniel

and Karen Duncan from Texas, United States who were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The wonderful visitors love coming to the island for the friendliness of the Aruban people, the great weather the island has, the beautiful white sandy beaches, delicious food the island has to offer with their favorite dish being 'Keshi Yena' and the

Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort being their home away from home.

Ms. Olga Ruiz & Ms. Kimberly Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority and members of the Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort bestowed the certificate of the Goodwill Ambassadors to the honorees, handed some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □

Honoring of loyal visitors at Marriott Surf Club Aruba

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".



The honorees were Rolando and Susan de Jesus Boado from New York, United States who were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba


between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The loyal visitors love coming to the island for it's Awesome weather, incredible beaches, friendliness of staff and locals, top notch culinary options and the ease of getting around the Island.

Ms. Olga Ruiz & Ms. Kimberly Richardson repre-

sending the Aruba Tourism Authority alongside Mrs. Jenny Boekhoudt & Mrs. Flora Naoe- Agarpao representing the Aruba Marriott Surf Club bestowed the certificate of the Goodwill Ambassadors to the honorees, handed some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □

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Travellers' Choice
2020

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experi-

ence the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.



Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around,

the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street.

Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans.

Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



California may add wine, liquor bottles to recycling program

By DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California would add wine and distilled spirits containers to its struggling recycling program, while giving beverage dealers another option to collect empty bottles and cans, under a measure lawmakers approved Wednesday. But critics say the bill would also give hundreds of millions of dollars to corporations they say don't need the incentives.

It's "a huge opportunity" to divert hundreds of additional tons of waste from landfills, said Democratic Assemblyman Phil Ting, who carried the bill in the Assembly. "This bill will be a huge leap."

In addition, dealers could form a cooperative organization to collect the containers as an alternative to the current law that requires stores to take back the empties, under the proposal by Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins. Fewer people have been able to claim their deposit refunds in recent years as many neighborhood recycling centers closed. The advocacy group Consumer Watchdog has said many grocery stores have been refusing to take back empties in-store as required.



Bottles of Apocalypse Now Red Blend wine stand on a tasting bar counter at the Francis Ford Coppola Winery on May 21, 2020, in Geyserville, Calif.

The measure cleared the Assembly 54-0 and the Senate 38-0. It will have an effective date of July 1, 2024, if Gov. Gavin Newsom signs the bill into law.

The bill doesn't spell out how the cooperative would work, but would require dealers to submit their plan to state regulators for approval. It would also increase the penalty for violating the law from the current \$1,000 to \$5,000 per day and for intentional violations from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per day.

California consumers pay

a nickel each time they buy a 12-ounce (355-milliliter) bottle or can, and a dime for containers over 24 ounces (709 milliliters).

They're supposed to get that money back by returning the bottles and cans, an incentive so the containers don't go into landfills but can be recycled into new products. The proposal would include a 25-cent deposit and refund for wine and distilled spirits sold in a box, bag or pouch.

Hawaii, Iowa, Maine and Vermont already have deposit programs including

those containers, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Adam Smith, Distilled Spirits Council of the United States' vice president of state government relations, praised the bill's passage in a statement.

"The spirits industry believes that sustainable environmental practices are critical to the continued production of the high-quality spirits that consumers enjoy," he said.

Adding wine and spirits would bring nearly \$18 million more annually to the

state's recycling fund starting in 2024, along with annual costs topping \$6 million, projects the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, generally known as CalRecycle.

Newsom's administration has proposed grants for automated recycling machines, also known as reverse vending machines, at high schools, colleges and retailers, and state-funded mobile recycling programs in rural areas and other places with few recycling options. It also has proposed temporarily doubling the refunds to encourage recycling and give back a portion of nearly \$600 million in unclaimed deposits, but that double refund is not in the current proposal. Consumer Watchdog, Container Recycling Institute and The Story of Stuff Project objected that Atkins' proposal contains too much pork for corporations, costing nearly \$400 million over the next five years for market development and quality incentives that the groups argue aren't needed.

Of that, \$300 million would go to glass container makers including E&J Gallo Winery's Gallo Glass Company, the nation's largest glass container plant, they said. □

Associated Press

EU: US electric vehicle tax credit reduces buyers' choices

BRUSSELS (AP) — A new U.S. tax credit aimed at encouraging Americans to buy electric vehicles may backfire and limit choices for consumers because of concerns it's weighed against European Union manufacturers, the EU trade chief said Thursday. Valdis Dombrovskis held a virtual meeting with his American counterpart Katherine Tai to address a wide range of trade issues, including the tax credit provision.

Democrats included the credit in the climate and health care policy law

passed last month as a way to incentivize domestic battery and electric vehicle production. But manufacturers in Europe and South Korea, which sell millions of vehicles in the U.S., have threatened to lodge legal complaints with the World Trade Organization.

The law includes a tax credit of up to \$7,500 that could be used to defray the cost of purchasing an electric vehicle. But to qualify for the full credit, the electric vehicle must contain a battery built in North America with 40% of the metals mined or recycled on the

continent.

The European Commission said parts of the law can help fight climate change by accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels but the EU's executive branch said it is concerned by the "potential discriminatory nature of electric vehicle tax credit provision."

"While the EU aims to cooperate closely with the US in climate action, green measures should not be designed in a discriminatory, WTO-incompatible way," it said.

Dombrovskis recalled dur-



An electric vehicle charges at a shopping center in Emeryville, Calif., Aug. 10, 2022.

Associated Press

ing the call that "that discriminating against EU manufacturers makes it much more difficult for them to contribute to the electrification of vehicles in the US, reduces the choice

of US consumers when they wish to buy electric vehicles."

The EU Commission said both sides agreed to continue discussions on the topic. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Campus

1 Soviet jets bigwig

5 Makes a choice 44 Head features

9 Writer Levi

10 College houses

12 Vocally

13 Add

14 New Mexico's capital

16 Letter after sigma

17 Bustle

18 New Hampshire's capital

20 Language rules

22 Goes bad

23 Prelude

25 In a frenzy

28 Seafood restaurant fixture

32 Wisconsin's capital

34 Pub pint

35 Count starter

36 Georgia's capital

38 Up to

40 Invited

41 So out, it's in

42 Strata



Yesterday's answer

DOWN

1 Ailment

2 Patch type

3 Over-supply

4 Recyclable item

5 Many a time

6 Debate side

7 Arm art

8 William and Mary's house

9 Hacienda houses

11 Taters

15 Ballroom dance

19 Cornfield pest

21 Polynesian

24 Was behind

25 Love affair

26 Like some space flights

27 "Swan Lake" role

29 Money worker

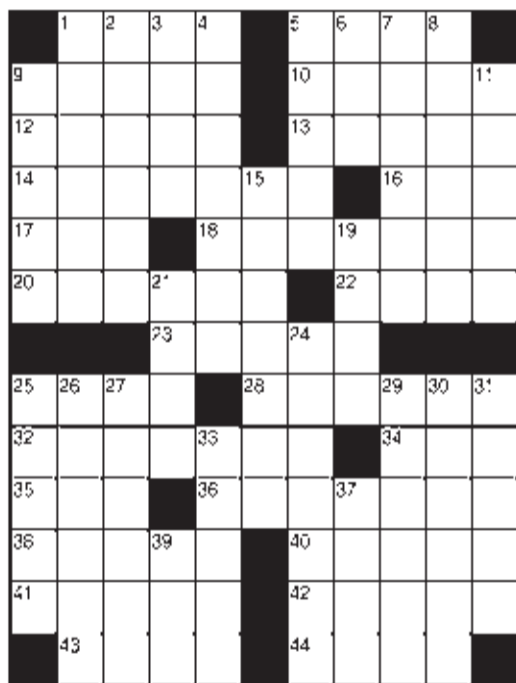
30 Changes through

31 Goes through

33 Styling site

37 Laos's land

39 Nest egg acct.



9-3

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

C H K Y I N Y V K U N N A C Y I U .

C V C U H N B N U U I Y X V K

A N B K J N L Z L Y V K M V Q N

U C O N H B N . — Y K A N Y V O X H I

Yesterday's Cryptquote: AGE IS SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T MATTER UNLESS YOU ARE A CHEESE. — LUIS BUNUEL

Zombie cells central to the quest for active, vital old age

By LAURA UNGAR
AP Science Writer

In an unfinished part of his basement, 95-year-old Richard Soller zips around a makeshift track encircling boxes full of medals he's won for track and field and long-distance running.

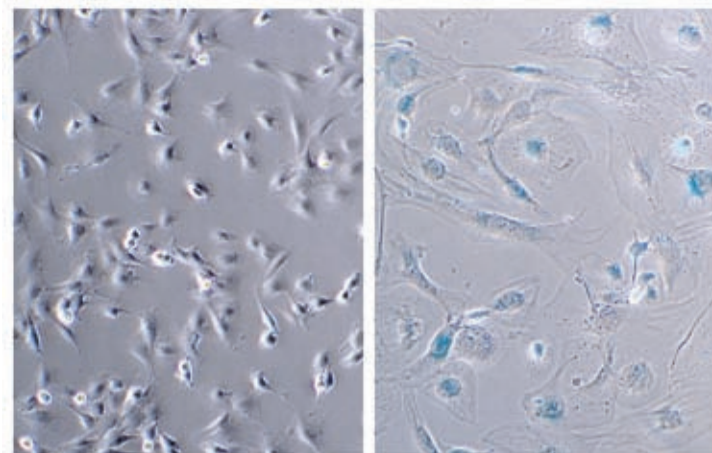
Without a hint of breathlessness, he says: "I can put in miles down here."

Steps away is an expensive leather recliner he bought when he retired from Procter & Gamble with visions of relaxing into old age. He proudly proclaims he's never used it; he's been too busy training for competitions such as the National Senior Games.

Soller, who lives near Cincinnati, has achieved an enviable goal chased by humans since ancient times: Staying healthy and active in late life. It's a goal that eludes so many that growing old is often associated with getting frail and sick. But scientists are trying to change that — and tackle one of humanity's biggest challenges — through a little known but flourishing field of aging research called cellular senescence.

It's built upon the idea that cells eventually stop dividing and enter a "senescent" state in response to various forms of damage. The body removes most of them. But others linger like zombies. They aren't dead. But as the Mayo Clinic's Nathan LeBrasseur puts it, they can harm nearby cells like moldy fruit corrupting a fruit bowl. They accumulate in older bodies, which mounting evidence links to age-related conditions such as dementia, cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis.

But scientists wonder: Can the zombie cell buildup be stopped? "The ability to understand aging — and the potential to intervene in the fundamental biology of aging — is truly the greatest opportunity we have had, maybe in history, to transform human health," LeBrasseur says. With the number of people 65 or older expected to double glob-



This combination of microscope photos provided by the Mayo Clinic in August 2022 shows healthy myoblast cells, left, and senescent ones. Senescent cells resist apoptosis, or programmed cell death, and characteristically get big and flat, with enlarged nuclei. They release a blend of molecules, some of which can trigger inflammation and harm other cells — and paradoxically also stimulate the growth of malignant cells and fuel cancer, says Mayo Clinic researcher Nathan LeBrasseur.

Associated Press

ally by 2050, cellular senescence is "a very hot topic," says Viviana Perez Montes of the National Institutes of Health. About 100 companies, plus academic teams, are exploring drugs to target senescent cells. And research offers tantalizing clues that people may be able to help tame senescence themselves using the strategy favored by Soller: exercise.

Although no one thinks senescence holds the key to super long life, Tufts University researcher Christopher Wiley hopes for a day when fewer people suffer with age-related diseases. "I'm not looking for the fountain of youth," Wiley says. "I'm looking for the fountain of not being sick when I'm older."

MORTAL CELLS

Leonard Hayflick, the scientist who discovered cellular senescence in 1960, is himself vital at 94. He's a professor of anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco, and continues to write, present and speak on the topic.

His scientific renown didn't come easily. He discovered cellular senescence by accident, cultivating human fetal cells for a project on cancer biology and noticing they stopped dividing after about 50 population doublings. This wasn't a big surprise; cell cultures often failed because of things

like contamination. What was surprising was that others stopped dividing at the same point. The phenomenon was later called "the Hayflick limit." The finding, Hayflick says, challenged "60-year-old dogma" that normal human cells could replicate forever. A paper he authored with colleague Paul Moorhead was rejected by a prominent scientific journal, and Hayflick faced a decade of ridicule after it was published in Experimental Cell Research in 1961. "It followed the usual pattern of major discoveries in science, where the discoverer is first ridiculed and then somebody says, 'Well, maybe it works' ... then it becomes accepted to some extent, then becomes more widely accepted," Hayflick says.

ZOMBIE BUILDUP

Scientists say cell senescence can be useful. It likely evolved at least in part to suppress the development of cancer by limiting the capacity of cells to keep dividing. It happens throughout our lives, triggered by things like DNA damage and the shortening of telomeres, structures that cap and protect the ends of chromosomes. Senescent cells play a role in wound healing, embryonic development and childbirth.

Problems can arise when they build up. □

New online dashboard helps flyers with delays, cancellations

By ASHRAF KHALIL

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid months of mass flight cancellations and delays, the Department of Transportation has launched a customer service dashboard to help vacationers ahead of the travel-heavy Labor Day weekend.

Starting Thursday, travelers will be able to check the dashboard and see what kinds of guarantees, refunds or compensation the major domestic airlines offer in case of flight delays or cancellations. It's designed to allow travelers to shop around and favor those airlines that offer the best compensation.

The dashboard is part of an extended pressure campaign from Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who has publicly challenged the major carriers to improve service and transparency after a summer marred by cancellations and flight delays. As summer travel returned to nearly pre-coronavirus pandemic levels, airlines struggled to keep pace, with mass cancellations being blamed on staffing shortages, particularly among pilots. "Passengers deserve transparency and clarity on what to expect from an airline when there is a cancellation or disruption," Buttigieg said in a statement Wednesday. The new tool, he said, will help travelers to "easily understand their rights, compare airline practices, and make informed decisions." The dashboard compares all the major domestic airlines' policies on issues such as which offer meals for delays of more than three



The arrivals board at the American Airlines terminal at LaGuardia Airport displays the flights that have been canceled or delayed and one that is on time, March 21, 2020, in New York.

hours and which offer to re-book flights on the same or different airlines at no additional charge. It focuses on what it calls "controllable" cancellations or delays — meaning those caused by mechanical issues, staffing shortages or delays in cleaning, fueling or baggage handling. Delays or cancellations caused by weather or security concerns do not count. The Department of Transportation is hoping that the dashboard will encourage competition among airlines to offer the most transparency and the best protec-

tions for customers. So far this year, airlines have canceled about 146,000 flights, or 2.6% of all flights, and nearly 1.3 million flights have been delayed, according to tracking service FlightAware. The rate of cancellations is up about one-third from the same period in 2019, before the pandemic, and the rate of delays is up nearly one-fourth. Federal officials have blamed many of the disruptions on understaffing at airlines, which encouraged employees to quit after the pandemic started. The airlines have coun-

tered by blaming staffing problems at the Federal Aviation Administration, which employs air traffic controllers. □

Associated Press



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Aces, Storm relying on defense in WNBA semifinal series

By **TIM BOOTH**
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — A series featuring some of the best of-fense stars in the WNBA has so far been defined by ... defense?

Breanna Stewart and A'ja Wilson have played like the two best players in the league as Seattle and Las Vegas split the first two games of their WNBA playoffs semifinal series. But the games have come down to which team had the better defensive effort.

The Storm were better in their 76-73 win in Game 1 by figuring out a way to keep Wilson from dominating. The Aces were better in Game 2, pulling out a 78-73 victory using a smaller lineup and limiting Stewart's supporting cast.

All of which has laid the groundwork for Sunday's pivotal Game 3 with the best-of-five series shifting back to Seattle.

"We're going to continue to do whatever we need to do schematically to limit their potent offense," Seattle coach Noelle Quinn said. "But to hold this team under 80, I don't know if that's been done twice in a row this year. We will take that and continue to build on that."

To answer Quinn's question:



Las Vegas Aces forward A'ja Wilson (22) shoots over Seattle Storm forward Breanna Stewart (30) during the first half in Game 2 of a WNBA basketball semifinal playoff series Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Only once in the regular season were the Aces held under 80 points in consecutive games. Las Vegas scored 79 in a win over Los Angeles and followed up a few days later by scoring 78 in a loss to Seattle.

Even with that one game where Seattle kept Las Vegas in check, defense was not expected to define the series. Las Vegas won three of the four matchups in the regular season, and in every game the winning team

scored at least 85 points. That included the regular-season finale, a 109-100 victory for the Aces.

It's usually the case that defense intensifies in the playoffs, but it's notable that neither of the teams has topped 80 points through the first two games.

"It's about each possession what is your smartest move, what is going to put you in the best position defensively," Aces guard Chelsea Gray said.

The Aces averaged 90.4 points during the regular season and 98 points in a first-round win over Phoenix. Seattle shot 44% from the field in the regular season, but shot 41.3% in Game 1 and 40.6% in Game 2.

One of the keys for Las Vegas was the defensive effort by Gray in Game 2, when she was asked to play against post players defensively as the Aces went with a smaller lineup. "That stretch that we went

small, put Chelsea Gray on the post, her activity really changed the momentum of the game," Aces coach Becky Hammon said.

"That's one of the things we want to be defensively is active and disruptive. Physical. Aggressive. I thought she really set the tone for us."

Wilson and Stewart have in some ways offset each other. Stewart had 24 points in Game 1 and 32 points in Game 2. Wilson was limited to just eight points and 12 rebounds in Game 1, but responded with 33 points and 13 rebounds in the next game.

Part of the reason Wilson's efforts in Game 2 resulted in a win was the Aces' ability to keep Jewell Loyd from being a factor on offense. Loyd had 26 in Game 1; she had eight in Game 2.

Seattle is hoping to get a boost ahead of Game 3 with the possibility that Gabby Williams will return after sitting out the first two games because of a concussion. Williams was a second-team All-WNBA defensive team selection this season.

"We did that without Gabby, and that's what I'm most impressed with ... so we're encouraged," Quinn said. □



Detroit Tigers' Austin Meadows bats against the Chicago White Sox during a baseball game June 14, 2022, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Tigers' Austin Meadows reveals mental health struggles

By **DANA GAURUDER**
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit Tigers outfielder Austin Meadows revealed on Friday he has been dealing with mental health issues along with physical ailments and will not play again this season.

"This season has been an unfortunate struggle with a series of injuries and illness, from dealing with vertigo early on, then COVID, then bilateral tendinitis in my Achilles, and then having to go through the rehab process each time," he posted on social media. "What I have told very few people is that I

also have been struggling with my mental health in a way that has extended my time away from the game I love so much."

Detroit manager A.J. Hinch has known of Meadows' mental health issues for several weeks. Meadows addressed the subject with teammates on Friday. "I've spent a lot of time with Austin in the last couple of weeks," Hinch said. "We'll offer him all the support we can, and we have been." Meadows has appeared in 36 games this season, batting .250 with no homers and 11 RBIs. He was acquired from Tampa Bay in a trade at the end

of spring training to give the Tigers' lineup an offensive boost. Meadows had 27 home runs and 106 RBIs last season for the Rays.

"He's going to continue to be around the team when we're home and continue to work with the people behind the scenes," Hinch said. "He's on a great path. He surrounded by a lot of great people. He's got a ton of support and his statement speaks for itself." Meadows added in his statement that he hopes his decision to go public will encourage others dealing with mental health problems "to reach out to someone for help." □

Analysis: Aaron Donald wasn't prepared for media tour

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Aaron Donald was scheduled for a media blitz to promote a product before he swung a helmet at opposing players during a joint practice last week. The tour went on Wednesday, as planned. Donald wasn't prepared for it. Given an opportunity by The Associated Press to address the incident, which occurred during a practice between his Los Angeles Rams and the Cincinnati Bengals, Donald said: "It was just a practice. It was football. I don't really want to go back to nothing negative that happened and talk about something that happened in a practice. My main focus is Buffalo." Naturally, the seven-time All-Pro defensive tackle and three-time AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year received more criticism for his response.

The 31-year-old Donald is already one of the NFL's all-time greatest players. He'll be a first-ballot Hall of Famer when his career is over. One out-of-control moment during a wild brawl that involved several players isn't going to tarnish Donald's legacy.

But he should've handled the aftermath more professionally. All Donald had to say to defuse critics was something like: "I regret



Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Jonah Williams (92) attempts to hold back Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald (99) as a third scuffle escalates into a brawl during a joint preseason NFL football camp practice between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Rams in Cincinnati, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022. Practice was ended early after the third scuffle turned into a broader fight between players on both teams.

what happened in the heat of the moment. I'm sorry." That's all it takes. Everyone would've moved on. Instead, he downplayed it, fueling the angry observers who want to see him suspended and fined heavily for a dangerous act. Hitting someone with a helmet could do serious damage, especially when the force is coming from a 6-foot-1, 284-pound man with the strength to dominate even bigger offensive linemen on his way to sack quarter-

backs.

Donald isn't subject to punishment from the NFL because the incident occurred during practice and teams are responsible for disciplining their players in those settings.

Cleveland's Myles Garrett was suspended six games in 2019 for using his helmet to hit Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph over the head, but that occurred during a regular-season game on prime-time television.

Donald told the AP he talked to his teammates and coach Sean McVay about his role in the fight and everything is OK.

Surely, the defending Super Bowl champion Rams won't suspend their best player for the NFL season opener against the Bills on Thursday night. But Donald's lack of contrition won't stop people from calling for punishment.

Donald doesn't have a history of violent behavior. He's likable, pleasant and

approachable, which isn't always the case with superstars. Reporters who cover the Rams closely say Donald is a down-to-earth athlete who is always friendly and polite. He's a normal guy away from football and hasn't allowed his accomplishments and remarkable success to change his personality.

Certainly, Donald has plenty of pride. Perhaps that explains his attempt to justify his helmet swing by dismissing it as just a practice. Someone needed to tell him ahead of an hour's worth of interviews that specific questions about the incident were coming — despite attempts by publicists to avoid the topic — and to be ready with some semblance of an apology.

Donald repeated a similar answer when asked about the brawl by CBS Sports Radio.

"It was just a practice," he said. "Obviously, people got phones out and things like that. But I'm not gonna sit and talk about negative stuff that happened at a practice. My main focus is Buffalo."

Saying people have phones suggests Donald is sorry the incident was caught on video.

That response, six days later, may be more inexcusable than the act itself. □

Associated Press

Swim cap for Black hair gets race approval after Olympic ban

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — A cap designed for Black swimmers' natural hair that was banned from the Tokyo Olympics has been approved for competitive races.

Swimming governing body FINA said on Friday the Soul Cap was on its list of approved equipment.

"Promoting diversity and inclusivity is at the heart of FINA's work," executive director Brent Nowicki said in a statement, "and it is very important that all aquatic athletes have access to the appropriate

swimwear."

The London-based Soul Cap brand was designed larger than existing styles to contain and protect dreadlocks, weaves, hair extensions, braids, and thick and curly hair.

Last year, British swimmer Alice Dearing was refused permission to wear a Soul Cap in the 10-kilometer marathon swim in Tokyo, with FINA suggesting the size could create an advantage.

The furor at that decision prompted an apology from the governing body

and a promise to review the application.

Soul Cap welcomed the approval that has come more than one year later as "a huge step in the right direction" in a sport that historically has had few Black athletes.

"For a long time, conventional swim caps have been an obstacle for swimmers with thick, curly, or volume-blessed hair," the company said. "They can't always find a cap that fits their hair type, and that often means that swimmers from some



Simone Manuel of the United States, left, reacts with teammate Katie McLaughlin, right, at the pool during a swimming training session at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Thursday, July 22, 2021, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

backgrounds end up avoiding competitions, or giving up the sport entirely. "We're excited to see the

future of a sport that's becoming more inclusive for the next generation of young swimmers." □

Weekly SPECIALS



<p>WAS \$19.99</p> <p>\$17.71</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Tenderloin 3/4 Brasil</p>	<p>WAS \$9.14</p> <p>\$5.71</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Grapes Assorted</p>	<p>WAS \$8.85</p> <p>\$6.85</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Breyers Ice Cream Assorted 48oz</p>	<p>WAS \$24.57</p> <p>\$18.85</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Meowmix Original Dry 16 lbs</p>
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<p>WAS \$17.71</p> <p>\$14.85</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Halal Striploin</p>	<p>WAS \$12.57</p> <p>\$8.57</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Snow Peas</p>	<p>WAS \$5.48</p> <p>\$3.99</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Apples Gala 3lbs</p>	<p>WAS \$4.57</p> <p>\$3.42</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Tangerine</p>	<p>WAS \$30.57</p> <p>\$27.42</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Absolut Vodka 750ml</p>
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<p>WAS \$9.71</p> <p>\$7.42</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>German Sausage(Pork)</p>	<p>WAS \$1.42</p> <p>\$0.91</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Corn Yellow</p>	<p>WAS \$4.85</p> <p>\$3.42</p> <p>Per KG</p> <p>Peppers Green</p>	<p>WAS \$3.01</p> <p>\$2.28</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Libby's Pineapple Sliced 20oz</p>	<p>WAS \$1.82</p> <p>\$1.42</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Gwoon Keukenpapier 3 laags Decor 2st</p>
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DIARY/FROZEN

<p>WAS \$13.71</p> <p>\$11.99</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Oscar Mayer Bacon Center Cut 12oz</p>	<p>WAS \$6.27</p> <p>\$5.42</p> <p>Each</p> <p>EE Strawberries Frozen 16oz</p>
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<p>WAS \$3.19</p> <p>\$2.62</p> <p>100 GR</p> <p>Deli Honey Roasted Turkey</p>	<p>WAS \$0.34</p> <p>\$0.66</p> <p>Each</p> <p>Kansbroodje</p>
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